

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 /131 W

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O 171538Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5412

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS

DIA FOR AA-2 AND DI-5

REF: ROME 8293

1. PRIME MINISTER RUMOR MET JUNE 14 AND 15 WITH SOCIALIST, SOCIAL

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DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN PARTY SECRETARIES TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ON

WILLINGNESS OF THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES TO ATTEMPT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT TO AVOID A GOVERNMENT CRISIS. ON THE BASIS OF THE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THOSE MEETINGS, RUMOR HAS CONVOKED A CENTER-LEFT SUMMIT FOR 10 A.M. JUNE 18 INCLUDING THE FOUR PARTY SECRETARIES, PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADERS AND MINISTERS WITH ECONOMIC PORTFOLIOS.

2. PRESUMABLY RUMOR DELAYED MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY TO ALLOW THE FOUR PARTIES TO DIGEST BRIEFLY THE SARDINIAN ELECTION RESULTS, DUE LATE TONIGHT OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING. ALTHOUGH THESE REGIONAL ELECTIONS ONLY INVOLVE 940,000 REGISTERED VOTERS (2.4 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORATE), SUBSTANTIAL DC LOSSES COUPLED WITH PSI GAINS COULD NEGATIVELY INFLUENCE THE CHANCES FOR AN EARLY CENTER-LEFT ACCORD.

3. DESPITE THE POSSIBLY DETRIMENTAL IMPACT OF THE SARDINIAN VOTE, DC SOURCES ARE REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT RUMOR WILL BE ABLE TO PATCH TOGETHER AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL AVOID A CRISIS OVER THE SHORT TERM. HOWEVER, THESE SAME SOURCES JOIN THE GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT A RESUSCITATED RUMOR GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT OF RENEWED CRISIS WHENEVER DIFFICULT DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, ARE REQUIRED. VOLPE

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